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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

24 September 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Allan Evans, State (INR)
Colonel J. W. Strain, USA (ACSI)
Captain A. D. Kilmartin, USN (ONI)
Colonel R. M. Lawson, USAF (AFCIN 2B2)
Colonel J. H. McCann, USAF (J-2, The Joint Staff)
[redacted] Director of Operational Services, NSA
Mr. Randolph V. Zander, Defense (OSO)

STAT

SUBJECT : SNIE 25-59: AUSTRIA'S POSITION BETWEEN EAST AND WEST

1. The attached terms of reference were agreed on at the meeting of the USIB representatives on 24 September.
2. All agencies are invited to contribute to any section within their competence to do so.
3. It is requested that contributions be received in this office by the close of business on Friday, 2 October.

Chester L. Cooper

CHESTER L. COOPER
Deputy Assistant Director
National Estimates

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SUBJECT: TERMS OF REFERENCE: SNIE 25-59: AUSTRIA'S POSITION
BETWEEN EAST AND WEST

THE PROBLEM

To reassess Austria's diplomatic and military posture vis-a-vis the Soviet Bloc and the West, with particular reference to (a) Austria's willingness to cooperate with the West in peacetime, and (b) Austria's probable actions in the event of a major international crisis or war.

SCOPE

This estimate will limit itself essentially to a reassessment of Austrian attitudes toward their position between East and West, with primary emphasis upon the following aspects: (1) current trends in the Austrian concept of neutrality; and (2) the implications of such trends upon Austrian military and defense policies and upon Austria's international posture both in peacetime and wartime. Where the study produces evaluations which diverge from other main conclusions contained in the last Austrian estimate, NIE 25-55, "Outlook for an Independent Austria," dated 23 August 1955, these should be noted.

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QUESTIONS BEARING ON THE PROBLEM

1. Describe, illustrate, and account for current official Austrian attitudes regarding neutrality. Have Austrian concepts shifted markedly since the end of Occupation? Are there any serious divergencies within and between the major parties as to Austria's proper international role? As to basic policies, especially those affecting their defense posture and relations with the US and the USSR? Is neutrality sentiment -- popular and elite -- increasing?
2. What has been Moscow's role in the developing situation, and how do the Soviets view current trends?
3. What are the implications of present neutrality trends upon Austria's pro-Western orientation in general? In terms of specific policies, e.g., defense spending and military buildup? Degree of coordination with European economic and political groupings? UN? Trade and cultural ties with the East? Refugee flow from the East? Receipt of military aid? Willingness to participate in joint secret military planning with the West, and the likely limits of Austrian commitments?
4. What are the likely major domestic and non-US (including Soviet) foreign reactions to the above? Are such reactions likely to have any noticeable impact upon the Austrian position?

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5. In the event of a grave international crisis or general war would Austria be likely to maintain a strict neutrality? What political and military actions would Austria be likely to take against violations of its neutrality, e.g., direct attack? overflights? interference with neutral trade? How effective would these be? Would the Soviet Bloc be likely to respect Austrian neutrality? What are Austrian military capabilities to meet a Satellite aggression? A Soviet aggression? To what extent would Austrian policy and capabilities be affected by the nature of the Yugoslavian involvement? By the actions of other neutrals?

6. What would be the Austrian reaction to a denial of additional US military aid to support the new Austrian military plans for setting up separate active and reserve forces? What are Austrian capabilities to supply its own forces? Where would Austria be likely to turn for external aid if deemed necessary, and US aid denied?